

11

The Bill, entitled an Act to empower the Governor and the Council to sell the public Property therein mentioned, read the second Time, passed, and sent to the Senate by Mr. Barnes and Mr. Kemplin.  
A Bill, entitled, An Act to make valid a Deed from Joseph Jennings, of the Kingdom of France, to Charles Goodrich of Charles County, was read the first and second Times by orposial Order, passed, and sent to the Senate by Mr. Kagruda and Mr. Kaskale. Adjourned till 5 o'clock

Post Meridiam. The house met

Mr. Hammond brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker the following Report

By the Committee appointed by the House of Delegates, December 17<sup>th</sup> 1779  
In Obedience to the Order of the honourable House, your Committee have taken into Consideration the Petition of Henry Stevenson, late Sheriff of Baltimore County, and are of Opinion, that the facts set forth in said Petition are true. That it appears by a Certificate from under the Treasurer's hand that the said Henry Stevenson paid into that Office the Balance of his Collection for the Year 1778, and your Committee are of Opinion he ought to be relieved from the Interest arising thereon. That it appears by said Petition, that the Time allowed for collection of the Tax for the Year 1779 is too short, occasioned from the Number of Nonjurors in said County, and your Committee are of Opinion, the said Petitioner ought to have a further Time allowed him for said Collection. All which is submitted to the Consideration of the honourable House.  
Signed per Order Geo. Ranken, Cl. Secy

Which was read the first Time

On Motion, Resolved, That all Petitions, Memorials, and other Papers, that may have been preferred to the present House of Delegates, or may have been preferred thereto for Consideration by any former Assembly, and which may not be considered and determined, be and are hereby referred to the next Session of Assembly.

Mr. McMahon brings in and delivers to Mr. Speaker a Bill, entitled, An Act to prohibit the going at large Swine and Hogs in Baltimore Town in Baltimore County, which was read the first Time and ordered to lie on the Table.

Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, Esq. from the Senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the Bill for the Seizure and Confiscation of British Property, with the following Message

Gentlemen,  
By the Senate December 25<sup>th</sup> 1779  
Although by our Message accompanying the Bill for the Seizure and Confiscation of British Property, returned with a Negative, we plainly intimated, we had not gone into a full Consideration, thereof and assigned our Reasons for not going into such a Consideration at this Session, yet, as in your Message, by Messrs. Hall and others, you urge the Passage of the Bill, and have adduced some Arguments to induce us to alter our Resolution, permit us to discuss them with that Coolness which the Importance of the Subject requires

In Justice, Policy, and Necessity, you say, influence your Conduct. It not unfrequently happens, that different Ideas of Justice, Policy, and Necessity, are entertained by different Bodies of Men. We are not convinced of the Justice of the Bill, less of its Policy, (and least of all of its Necessity, we have not had sufficient Time to make those strict and full Researches into the Law of Nations, which, you say, you have made. As far as we have examined into the Subject, we doubt, whether, by a fair Construction of that Law, the Declaration of Independence can have such a retrospective Operation, as to vest in this State all British Property acquired by Individuals antecedently to it. We

presume